



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report January 2004

WSDOT Aviation calls for airport aid grant applications. On February 1, 2004, WSDOT Aviation called for Local Airport Aid Grant Applications from Washington airport sponsors. With the grant application deadline set for March 1st, all public use airports in the State received the announcement. WSDOT Aviation will utilize the same set of procedures, developed in 2003, to evaluate this year's grant applications. Those procedures clarify project eligibility and how the agency prioritizes the various types of airport improvement projects. In 2003, WSDOT Aviation awarded a total of \$1.29 million to 29 Washington airports for projects ranging from runway pavement overlays to airspace obstruction clearing and runway lighting equipment. WSDOT Aviation will continue to place strong emphasis on pavement preservation projects in 2004, awarding 75% of all funds available in this category. The remaining balance of funds available will be shared between safety and security projects (15%), and operations and maintenance projects (10%). Stan Allison, Manager, Aviation Operations, is available to assist airport sponsors with the application process. Grant award decisions will be made no later than April 1st, which will allow sponsors to initiate construction projects as soon as possible. A total of \$1.3 million dollars is available for this round of grant applications and approximately 80 airports will be competing for these funds. For more information about WSDOT Aviation's Airport Aid Grant Program, view the [Airport Grants Program page](#).

Back by popular demand: WSDOT Aviation sponsors IA Re-certification clinic in Spokane! Join WSDOT Aviation, the Spokane FSDO and Hoffman Training Center at Spokane Community College on Saturday, March 20th. Must be a registered pilot or mechanic with the State to attend. The class will be held from 7am –5:15pm with a 1 hour and 15 minute lunch break. [Register online](#) or call 1-800-552-0666 for more information.

FAA partners with WSDOT Aviation to sponsor Annual Aviation Awards Ceremony at Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show in Puyallup. Awards will honor outstanding state achievements in aviation:

2003 Airport Manager of the Year
2003 Aviation Volunteer of the Year
2003 Airport of the Year
2003 "Aviation Stars"
2003 Aviation FBO of the year
FAA Awards

Awards Ceremony and lunch is scheduled from 11:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday,

February 21st, featuring Guest Speaker, Congressman Rick Larsen on “TFRs.” Attendees will receive a free updated Pilot's Guide CD. To purchase lunch tickets in advance, please contact:

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Loss of commercial service to Port Angeles prompts NW Aviation Directors to call for summit. Commuter carriers, founded to provide small communities with air service in the Northwest, now appear to be shifting strategies in an attempt to concentrate on more profitable long haul routes. WSDOT Aviation Director, John Sibold, plans to meet with local air carrier representatives to express concern over the potential loss of service in other communities and obtain a better understanding of future plans. Several commuter carriers in the Midwest have shown interest in providing service to communities left by other carriers. Due to the economic impact on small communities, it is in the State's interest to facilitate air service discussions. Air service marketing grants are available through the FAA.



Transportation Security Agency (TSA) meets with Director Sibold. Sibold and TSA discussed progress on implementing general aviation security guidelines in Washington State. Good news – all but five public airports have completed and submitted security inventory assessments to WSDOT Aviation. Security plans are being developed at the larger general aviation airports, including seven to date, which will allow them to become eligible for security grants

from the State. Throughout January, WSDOT Aviation has assisted airports across the State with the installation of over 450 airport security signs to increase awareness and provide phone numbers for reporting suspicious activity.

WSDOT Aviation needs your help. Delinquent airman and aircraft registrations now carry the consequence of civil penalties. To avoid issuing any civil penalties, WSDOT Aviation has notified Washington aviators, using the updated FAA list. While overall compliance has increased, many aviators still have not contacted WSDOT to register or apply for an exemption. For more information about registration requirements and exemptions, or to register online, go to <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation>

WSDOT Aviation meets with Rep. Larsen's staff to discuss TFRs. The two parties discussed the impact of the recently modified Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) in the Puget Sound. The new TFRs are substantially reduced to the approximate radius of the military facilities and will allow for increased general aviation air space around Paine Field and Bremerton Airport. WSDOT and Rep. Larsen remain committed to continued

dialogue with the Navy to identify ways to permanently eliminate unnecessary flight restrictions.

Transportation Research Board (TRB) meetings in D.C. highlight current trends in aviation. Commercial air service availability in densely populated areas is continuing to increase as HUB airports approach capacity and discount carriers look for opportunities to reduce costs. However, highway infrastructure is often lacking to support this trend. Highway congestion remains an important factor in influencing the airport of choice for business travelers. Many conference attendees have also called for research to measure the effect of heightened airport security on passengers when making travel decisions. The FAA is focusing research on the development of a national system plan for airport and airspace capacity. State aviation departments will participate in this effort to align airports of statewide significance with the federal system. WSDOT Aviation continues to support research that would aid in the development of a national policy on aviation land use to help states adopt local land use policies for protecting airports.

Maintenance plans underway for State-owned airports

Planning is in the works for upgrading and enhancing several of the State-owned airports in early spring to address fencing, signage, and access issues. Since many of these airports are under conditional use permits for other agencies, written permission must be obtained to make any improvements. WSDOT Aviation is currently reviewing every permit for changes that will be proposed as renewals occur. Airport targeted for maintenance projects include Skykomish, Ranger Creek, Easton, Lake Wenatchee, and Sullivan Lake. Ongoing projects include the irrigation system at Stehekin, hangar issues at Woodland, and airport access issues at Methow State.



TO: Airports interested in the FAA Contract Tower Program. The FAA/AAAE/USCTA Contract Tower Workshop will be held May 24-25, in Washington, DC. Learn more about the FAA Contract Tower Program during the event, which features informative workshops on pertinent contract tower issues. Airport managers, ATC companies, aviation users, and other officials interested in the program are encouraged to attend.

For more information and to download the registration application, view the [Education and Training page](#).